

Opportunity WORKS

Sector-driven internships for young adults in suburban Cook County

provided by the Chicago Cook Workforce Partnership

CAREER LAUNCH

Opportunity Youth Employment Program

provided by the Justice Advisory Council

Conservation Corps

provided by the Forest Preserves of Cook County

More than 33,000 young adults between the ages of 16 and 24 are disconnected from both work and school in suburban Cook County. At the same time, many employers report a shortage of skilled workers.



Opportunity Works places young adults in subsidized internships, exposes them to viable careers, expands their skill sets and connects them to the training and resources they need to achieve long-term employment in growing industries.

This program will target the south and west suburbs, but will be open to residents in all of suburban Cook County, offering sector-specific training in these fields:



Transportation, Distribution and Logistics



Information Technology



Manufacturing

Career Launch, administered by the Cook County Justice Advisory Council, is a new opportunity youth employment program available to young people ages 16–24 who are disengaged from work or school. The program is open to residents of Austin, Back of the Yards and South Shore, as well as the south suburbs of Cook County, and will serve approximately 200 young adults.



The program features:

- Job Readiness and Career Exploration
- Job Retention Support
- Job Placement
- Sector-Specific Training
- Wraparound Services

All training and exploration includes a stipend, and specific programs within **Career Launch** last from six weeks to three months.

In this first year of the program, we are enrolling about 200 participants, and hope to grow participation in the coming years. Previous involvement with the criminal justice system is not a barrier to participation in this program.



Conservation Corps programs provide paid, hands-on conservation experiences to participants from across Cook County's diverse communities. The Forest Preserves mobilize participants to heal and nurture the land. 287 participants engaged in 2016.

Summer youth programs last 4 to 6 weeks and are open to residents aged 14 to 19. They include job readiness training, physically active service work, and nature-based recreation. Transportation and service clothing are provided.



Conservation Corps also provides adult employment programs focusing on technical skills and certifications to pursue a career in conservation. Programs last from 10 weeks to 12 months and range from part- to full-time, resulting in 70–90% job placement post-program.



Contact The Partnership at (312) 603-7092 to learn more about the program or visit www.workforceboard.org/youth-programs/opportunityworks

Contact the Justice Advisory Council at (312) 603-1133 to learn more about the program or visit www.cookcountyil.gov/service/career-launch

Contact Alice Brandon at (708) 906-3907 to learn more about Conservation Corps or visit fpdcc.com.



Toni Preckwinkle
Cook County
Board President

COOK COUNTY CONNECTS

Looking for a Job?

Apply to one of our
employment programs!

When you apply to our programs,
you will benefit from these services in
addition to paid work:

Career Pathway Exposure

Mentorship

High School Reconnection

Occupational Training

Leadership Development

Post-Program Referrals

Research has shown that jobs programs and workforce supports for young adults are effective in encouraging further education, expanding future career opportunities and reducing violence in our communities.

- A recent UChicago CrimeLab study has shown that One Summer Chicago Plus participants were 43% less likely to be arrested for violent crime.
- Having a job as a teenager increases one's lifetime earning potential.
- Participating in employment and training programs that include career exploration activities and supportive services decrease the likelihood of experiencing long-term unemployment.

Visit www.cookcountyil.gov/service/cook-county-connects for more information.



CHICAGO COOK
WORKFORCE
PARTNERSHIP



Employment, mentorship
and training opportunities
for young adults
ages 16 to 24